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Commission on Sustainable Development

Report on the fifteenth session (12 May 2006 and 30 April-11 May 2007)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development during its 2008/2009 cycle*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 59/265 of 23 December 2004, in which the Assembly decided, inter alia, that there should be an intervening period of at least two weeks between the closing of the sessions of relevant intergovernmental bodies and the beginning of the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and further recalling Commission on Sustainable Development resolution 13/1, in which the Commission decided, inter alia, to devote, in 2008, a separate segment at the end of its review session to monitor and follow up the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation and their interlinkages taken at the Commission's thirteenth session, decides that the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (review session) should take place from 5 to 16 May 2008, the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the seventeenth session of the Commission should take place from 23 to 27 February 2009 and the seventeenth session of the Commission (policy session) should take place from 4 to 15 May 2009.

Draft decision II
Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifteenth session and provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifteenth session and approves the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 3-6.
** For the discussion, see chapters IV and V.

3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 (review session):
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Review of the implementation of the decisions on water and sanitation and their interlinkages taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session.
5. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the following Chairperson's summary of the fifteenth session of the Commission:

Chairperson's summary
Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change

1. Ministers and delegations at the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development undertook extensive negotiations on a wide range of issues related to the interlinked themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The negotiations were carried out on the basis of a revised Chairperson's draft negotiating text which was prepared drawing on the initial Chairperson's text emanating from the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held from 26 February to 2 March 2007, and comments and discussion by delegations taking place over five sessions during the first week of the Commission's deliberations. Negotiations on the document started on Thursday, 3 May 2007 and were to have concluded on Tuesday, 8 May 2007, but continued throughout the high-level segment until the last day of the session.

2. There was broad agreement that the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change were of fundamental importance to achieving the goals of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. Delegations achieved near unanimity on the industrial development and air pollution/atmosphere themes, but remained divided on key points in the energy and climate change chapters. As a consequence, it was necessary for the Chairperson to present a decision text for consideration by the Commission, reflecting the Chairperson's best efforts to reconcile the remaining

conflicting viewpoints in a fair and balanced manner. All the major political groupings, save one, accepted the Chairperson's proposed decision text. Germany, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the European Union, as well as one country attending as an observer, rejected the decision text because agreement could not be reached on time-bound targets for renewable energy, the integration of energy policies into national planning by 2010, a formal review arrangement for energy issues in the United Nations and an international agreement on energy efficiency. As a consequence of not reaching agreement, the present Chairperson's summary of the negotiations is presented in lieu of the decision document, which is attached as an annex to the summary.

3. Many delegations pointed to the existing body of resolutions, decisions and conference outcomes that provided the background and framework for decision-making on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. Those included the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] including principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6] the Declaration of Barbados[7] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[8] the Mauritius Declaration[9] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[10] the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session,[11] and the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster,[12]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] See "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session", *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9* (E/2001/29-E/CN.17/2001/19), chap. I.B, pp. 1-32.

[12] *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005* (A/CONF.206/6), chap. I, resolution II.

adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005.

4. Attention was called by many countries to the continuing need for integrating economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, and to poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development as the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development.

5. Countries also stressed the need for commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements reached since 1992, including the outcome of the 2005 World Summit,[14] recognizing the continuing urgent need for actions to achieve those goals.

6. Many emphasized that the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change were strongly interlinked and needed to be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects, related sectoral policies and cross-cutting issues as identified by the Commission at its eleventh session, as well as specific national, subregional and regional circumstances and legal frameworks.

7. The special needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States was stressed, given the particular development challenges they faced.

8. The importance of mainstreaming gender considerations, in particular the role of women in management and decision-making, at all levels, was seen as necessary for implementation of the interlinked issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

A. Energy for sustainable development

9. It was recognized that energy was crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation must be urgently and substantially accelerated. It was generally acknowledged that access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services was crucial, particularly for developing countries. There was general acceptance of the need to further diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies.

10. There was considerable discussion on the issue of fossil fuels and their role in the energy mix. While it was emphasized that fossil fuels would continue to play a dominant role in the energy supply for decades to come, some countries stressed

[13] General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[14] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

that every effort should be made to diversify the energy mix, giving far greater attention to rapidly increasing the share of renewable energy in the mix.

11. While a number of countries stressed the need to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, they also wanted to go beyond simply recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets and initiatives, and to establish time-bound targets in that regard. The mention of time-bound targets proved to be one of the areas in which agreement could not be reached.

12. Mention was made of the development of carbon capture and storage and enhanced oil recovery technologies, with developed countries accelerating their development in contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

13. Many countries stressed the need for making greater use of effective policy tools to ensure that energy policies were supportive of developing country efforts to eradicate poverty and to integrate diversified energy policies into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and national development plans.

14. The use of improved market signals, removing market distortions, restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they existed, taking into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries, was seen as promoting energy systems compatible with sustainable development while minimizing possible adverse impacts on countries' development.

15. The need to accelerate access to sustainable energy services to the poor, including sustainable rural electrification programmes, in particular in rural and remote areas in developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and African countries was widely recognized, as well as the need to adopt incentives to encourage increased investment by the public and private sectors in order to provide sustainable, improved energy services and infrastructure, particularly for the poor, in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, with special attention to women.

16. It was recognized that greater energy efficiency would require efforts to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of more efficient energy technologies, with particular attention to increasing efficiency and productivity in the power and heat sectors, through better utilization of generation capacities, co-generation, lowering energy transmission losses, demand management, fuel switching, heat recovery, interconnection or national electricity grids, the establishment of power pools and greater electricity trade. That would include promoting energy efficiency policies and programmes at the national level, including energy auditing schemes and certification, system optimization, appliance and equipment performance and labels for products used in residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

17. Promoting and strengthening energy efficiency building codes and encouraging financial and technical support for improving insulation, lighting and natural ventilation in public, residential and commercial buildings, including the integration of energy efficiency into public procurement policies and procedures, as well as increasing efficiency in the industrial sector, including oil and gas extraction, processing, storage, loading, dispensing and transport, and reducing gas flaring and venting was stressed.

18. Some countries proposed initiating a process that would lead to an international agreement on energy efficiency that could cover issues such as sharing information, research, regulatory cooperation, education, training and finance. Other countries wished only to promote international cooperation on those issues. No consensus could be reached on initiating a formal agreement process.

19. A number of countries favoured including a reference to nuclear energy as an energy source capable of meeting energy security needs while reducing carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. Others were reluctant to open the issue, noting that the reference in the decision of the Commission at its ninth session was still relevant, and that the text under discussion referred to cleaner and advanced energy technologies which, in the view of some, included nuclear energy. Many countries expressed concern about nuclear safety issues and management of radioactive wastes, although an improvement in those areas, in recent years, was noted.

20. While there was recognition of the desirability of a specific review of energy issues within the context of the Commission in the coming years, there was considerable divergence regarding who, how, when and in what detail such a review should be conducted. Some were of the view that one or two days in 2010 and 2014 should be devoted to the monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of decisions on energy for sustainable development and the means of implementation. Other countries proposed more formal and detailed review arrangements, but no decision could be reached on undertaking such a review or its modalities.

21. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on a number of issues which delegations agreed *ad referendum* were needed to enhance regional, subregional and international cooperation, such as increasing energy access in urban, rural and remote areas; facilitating resource mobilization, and enhancing energy availability and efficiency; supporting implementation of energy policies in the framework of national sustainable development strategies; developing and deploying renewable energy technologies and advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies; strengthening initiatives on bioenergy, including biofuels; implementing national and regional energy efficiency programmes, including investment in, and the transfer of, modern energy efficiency technologies; strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development of the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat; strengthening cooperation between national and regional energy institutions; encouraging regional and international financial institutions to expand, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to continue its support for energy efficiency, energy saving, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies; cooperating in the field of generation, transmission and distribution of energy; supporting national efforts to adopt standards and labelling for energy-efficient appliances and consumer equipment; improving energy production and transport infrastructure, including pipeline, transmission and distribution facilities; improving the functioning, transparency and information related to energy markets, and enhancing regional and international dialogue and understanding between energy producing and consuming countries.

B. Industrial development

22. There was recognition that industrial development was crucial for economic growth, eradicating poverty and employment creation, as well as the achievement of

the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Managing the natural resource base in a sustainable and integrated manner was essential for sustainable development. Increasing resource-use efficiency and enhancing technological innovation offered opportunities to reduce costs and increase competitiveness and employment, as well as to delink economic growth and environmental degradation. In that regard, the role of business and industry was important. International financing and technology cooperation and transfer were important to developing countries and their businesses and industries to facilitate adoption of cleaner, more efficient technologies. Industrial development was closely linked to the further integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the global economy.

23. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on issues on which delegations agreed *ad referendum*, such as creating an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development; enhancing domestic environmental governance; adopting improved environmental management practices and environmentally sound technologies; enhancing the mobilization of technical and financial resources for basic infrastructure; supporting technological upgrading for sustainable industrial development; enhancing efficient and sustainable use by industry of natural resources and energy; strengthening business capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises; promoting sustainable tourism, including ecotourism; improving social and environmental performance through voluntary innovative management and reporting practices; enhancing voluntary public-private corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability; promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production by all countries, and promoting effective voluntary business and consumer actions in order to enhance sustainable consumption and production.

24. Discussion on subregional, regional and international cooperation included consideration of actions, agreed *ad referendum*, on the need to encourage continued international efforts to support developing countries in building capacities for environmental impact assessments; pursue progress in the field of sustainable consumption and production patterns through full commitment to the Marrakech process; improve market access for products of importance to developing countries by reducing or, as appropriate, eliminating tariffs, including the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation as well as non-tariff barriers; work towards the successful completion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations; support trade-related capacity-building in developing countries; support technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed; strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular technology cooperation, and promote and disseminate activities relating to trade and investment opportunities in developing countries, including small island developing States.

C. Air pollution/atmosphere

25. Air pollution was seen as having serious adverse impacts on the quality of life, in particular on human health, the environment and the economy. Therefore an integrated approach to tackle both indoor and outdoor air pollution that took into account the related environmental, economic and social consequences was needed. Mitigation efforts should be better integrated into national development planning

processes. Indoor air pollution from traditional biomass cooking and heating was a poverty-related issue whose effects were most strongly felt by women and children at the household/local level, particularly in developing countries. Industry and various forms of transportation might contribute significantly to air pollution.

26. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on a number of issues on which delegations agreed *ad referendum*, such as the need to accelerate the transition from inefficient utilization of biomass to cleaner energy sources, technology, and appliances for cooking and heating; develop strategies for sustainable urban and land-use planning; promote the establishment of country and regional air quality standards; improve control of emissions through the establishment of emission limit values from different sources to mitigate air pollution; improve urban air quality through utilization of cleaner fuels and technologies; promote less polluting public and mass transport systems; encourage the switch to more fuel and energy-efficient vehicles; encourage improved inspection and maintenance requirements for vehicles; improve fuel and vehicle efficiency and the use of technologies that reduce emissions; improve information on sources and health impacts of indoor air pollution; improve collection, compilation and analysis of data; provide financial and other resources to support programmes that address adverse health impacts and increase successful approaches and best practices and partnerships to reduce indoor air pollution.

27. The Chairperson's proposed decision text also includes actions on a number of issues which delegations agreed *ad referendum* were needed in order to strengthen regional, subregional and international cooperation for improved air quality and control of transboundary air pollution, as well as encourage the sharing, on a voluntary basis, of regional and subregional experiences that address transboundary air pollution; increase cooperation on collection, management, and dissemination of sound and updated scientific data; promote policies to reduce air pollution, the use of ozone-depleting substances and improve air quality; implement multilateral environmental agreements; ratify or accede to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer[15] and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer[16] and its amendments; address illegal traffic in ozone-depleting substances under the framework of the Montreal Protocol; strengthen systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by means of satellite, aerial and in situ monitoring systems; phase out the remaining use of leaded gasoline, work to reduce sulphur content in fuels; and support, as appropriate, international monitoring programmes.

D. Climate change

28. Climate change was recognized as a global sustainable development challenge with strong social, economic and environmental dimensions. The recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change regarding the impacts of climate change on sustainable development were seen by many as a cause for concern. Climate change impacts all countries but was noted to be particularly severe for developing countries, especially African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, which were

[15] See United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 1513, No. 26164.
[16] Ibid., vol. 1522, No. 26369.

particularly vulnerable, given their exposure and inadequate means and limited capacities to adapt to its effects. Noting the contribution of human activities to climate change, countries highlighted the need for urgent attention and further action by the international community, in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[17] recognizing that social and economic development and poverty eradication were the overriding priorities for developing countries. The Framework Convention was the key instrument for addressing climate change. Deliberations by the Commission on Sustainable Development were meant to complement and support, not duplicate, the work of the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.[18]

29. A critical point of difference between countries concerned which issues were best left to discussion within the Framework Convention and which could be taken up by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Points where agreement could not be reached included calling particular attention to principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development concerning common but differentiated responsibilities, discussing possible commitments under the Framework Convention, making reference to arrangements after 2012, identifying new and additional financial resources for mitigating climate change, referencing the provision of technical and financial resources to developing countries in each policy bullet, developing insurance schemes by developed countries for minimizing impacts of climate change on developing countries, making reference to sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhancing dialogue between the Kyoto Protocol and Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances that were also greenhouse gases.

30. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on a number of issues on which delegations agreed *ad referendum*, such as continuing support to developing countries, including through provision of financial and technical assistance, particularly to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to address their climate change adaptation challenges and priorities; supporting early warning, risk management and disaster reduction and response measures for developing countries; integrating lessons learned and experiences derived from disaster risk reduction activities into adaptation measures; supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promoting the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of carbon sinks and reservoirs.

31. The importance of meeting all the commitments and obligations under the Framework Convention, in accordance with Convention principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and achieving the ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, was stressed by many countries, although as noted above, there was objection by some countries to making particular reference to common but differentiated responsibilities in that context.

[17] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.
[18] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1.

32. There was broad agreement on the development and dissemination of advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energies, such as hydro, geothermal, wind, bioenergy, such as biofuels, solar, hydrogen and other new and renewable energy sources, and technologies that contributed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including through private sector involvement, market-oriented approaches and supportive public policies and international cooperation.

33. There was a widely shared acceptance of the continuing need to explore the technical and economic feasibility and environmental soundness of new and emerging technologies, such as carbon capture and storage and other emission reduction technologies for fossil fuel sources, although some countries expressed continuing concern about the maturity and feasibility of such technologies.

34. There was also broad agreement on moving towards a longer-term strategy and a comprehensive response to climate change by promoting sustainable economic growth, accelerating the transition to a lower greenhouse-gas-emitting economy, and enhancing adaptive capacities and response measures to cope with the impacts of climate change.

35. There was general agreement on the importance of increasing community resilience to climate-change-related disasters by protecting natural resources and the conservation of ecosystems and the services they provided, through activities such as conservation and restoration of mangroves and coral reefs, reforestation and rangeland rehabilitation, and protection of coastal areas and marine resources, including fish stocks, and integrated water resources management, and the need to enhance and support efforts in that regard, in particular in developing countries.

36. Discussions of regional, subregional and international cooperation on climate change included references to enhancing international support to establish and/or strengthen regional climate observation systems and networks; strengthening international support to enhance national institutional capacities in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition for their effective participation in the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation processes; strengthening existing funding mechanisms for adaptation activities; strengthening North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in research, development and demonstration initiatives and enhancing dialogue on ozone-depleting substances that were also greenhouse gases.

E. Interlinkages, cross-cutting issues and means of implementation

37. Many countries stressed the importance of taking an integrated approach to the four thematic issues, addressing in a balanced way the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development to enhance effectiveness, influence lifestyle changes and assist in the realization of complementary and mutually reinforcing policy options and actions. Cross-cutting issues needed to be mainstreamed into policy approaches, programmes and development cooperation activities, including through public participation and in particular a strong role of women in decision-making. The means of implementation were critical to turning commitments into actions.

38. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on a number of issues on which delegations agreed *ad referendum*, such as ensuring that energy, industry, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change plans and policies are integrated into national sustainable development strategies, and other policy frameworks; strengthening good governance at all levels, in both the public and private sectors; implementing the global partnership for development and enhancing the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit; promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation; building partnerships and voluntary initiatives with all relevant stakeholders and major groups; creating an enabling environment for investment; encouraging private international financial flows and public-private partnerships; facilitating greater flows of foreign direct investment; ensuring that investment and trade policies are non-discriminatory; working towards an early conclusion and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations; advancing and fully implementing the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building;[19] reaffirming the importance of achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015; enhancing gender mainstreaming in all areas of sustainable development; integrating health concerns including those of the most vulnerable populations into strategies, policies and programmes and recognizing and utilizing as appropriate the knowledge and experience of the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21.

39. While the meeting was unable to reach a full consensus on all the means of implementation, critical elements in all four thematic areas included the need to mobilize financial resources, from both the public and private sectors, increase official development assistance (ODA), microcredit and innovative funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency, cleaner fossil fuels and other energy; create a positive investment climate at all levels to attract private capital; encourage transfer and dissemination of cleaner energy technologies, including advanced, cleaner fossil fuel technologies; increase investments and strengthen public/private partnerships in research and development (R and D); promote foreign direct investment (FDI) for the development of the resource base; encourage international financial institutions to increase their funding in developing countries; encourage investment in new and more efficient production facilities and products; strengthen investment in capacity-building; enhance access to credit, including microfinancing, by small-scale entrepreneurs; build capacity for monitoring, construction and updating of emissions inventories; promote the development, demonstration and deployment of technologies for adaptation and mitigation, and build capacity for research on climate change impacts and training for technical capabilities, particularly in developing countries.

Follow-up to and further implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation

40. The Chairperson's proposed decision text includes actions on a number of issues on which delegations agreed *ad referendum*, such as, fully and effectively implementing the commitments, programmes and targets adopted in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

[19] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

(Barbados Programme of Action)[20] and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;[21] promoting the implementation of partnership initiatives consistent with the role and mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development; encouraging the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further mainstream the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and urging donors, financial institutions and mechanisms to consider ways to simplify and improve access to financial resources for small island developing States.

Africa

41. No agreement was reached on measures for Africa but countries supported the need to implement the priority actions for African countries, including: provision of affordable and environmentally sound energy services, infrastructure development, improvement in air pollution and data collection and observation capabilities, and adaptation to impacts of climate change, such as drought and desertification; and strengthening financial and technical assistance and resources to support the implementation of Africa's agreed programmes of action, and regional implementation and support in implementing plans on science and technology, disaster risk reduction and hydropower development.

Review and follow-up

42. No consensus was reached on review and follow-up on the interlinked issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

[20] A/CONF.167/9, annex II.

[21] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), annex II.

Annex

Decision text proposed by the Chairperson

1. The decision text proposed by the Chairperson reads as follows:

Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change

1. Strongly reaffirming our commitment to the Rio principles, as contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[a] in particular principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, and to the full implementation of Agenda 21,[b] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[c] and the Plan of Ijmplementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Impl_mentation);[d]

2. Further reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[e] the Declaration of Barbados[f] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[g] the Mauritius Declaration[h] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[i] Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[j] the decisions of the Commission on

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[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[b] Ibid., annex II.

[c] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[d] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[e] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[f] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[g] Ibid., annex II.

[h] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[i] Ibid., annex II.

[j] *Report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Brussels, Belgium, 14-20 May 2001* (A/CONF.191/13), chap. I, pp. 10-67.

Sustainable Development at its ninth session,[k] the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters;[l]

3. Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome;[m]

4. Reaffirming the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and those contained in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences held and international agreements reached since 1992, and recognizing the continuing urgent need for actions to achieve these goals;

5. Reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on sustainable development within the United Nations system and serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

6. Reaffirming the continuing need for integrating economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, and that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development;

7. Recognizing the special needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

8. Emphasizing the need for continued, coordinated and effective international support for achieving the development goals in countries emerging from conflict and in those recovering from natural disasters;

9. Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003 on the future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

10. Noting the outcome of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which identified the obstacles and constraints, lessons learned, best practices and future challenges for the thematic cluster on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change;

11. Noting the contribution of partnerships for sustainable development for advancing the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

12. Decides to submit the policy decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session to the Economic and Social Council;

13. Decides to call upon Governments and the United Nations system, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, and invites international financial institutions and other international organizations, as appropriate, working

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[k] Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its ninth session, *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 9* (E/2001/29-E/CN.17/2001/19), chap. I.B, pp. 1-32.

[l] *Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005* (A/CONF.206/6), chap. I, resolution II.

[m] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

in partnership with major groups and other stakeholders, to take action as set out below;

14. Decides to call on Governments to mainstream gender considerations, in particular the role of women in management and decision-making, at all levels, which is crucial for the implementation of the interlinked issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

A. Energy for sustainable development

15. Energy is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. To tackle challenges and realize our ambitions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals within the agreed time frames, the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation must be urgently and substantially accelerated. Access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services is crucial, particularly in developing countries, taking into account national specificities and circumstances. While fossil fuels will continue to play an important role in the energy supply in the decades to come, every effort must be made to diversify the energy mix.

16. Take actions to:

(a) Further diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, including, as appropriate, hydropower, geothermal, wind, solar, hydrogen, tidal and ocean and bioenergy, such as biofuels, and their transfer to developing countries, on concessional terms, as mutually agreed;

(b) With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the roles of national and voluntary regional targets, as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive of the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate data to review progress to this end;

(c) Substantially increase, as a matter of urgency, the global share of renewable energy in the energy mix, including, as appropriate, solar thermal, photovoltaic, biomass including biofuels, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal and other forms of renewable energy in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and national plans;

(d) Make greater use of effective policy tools, such as voluntary national, subnational or regional goals, programmes and targets, as appropriate, to increase access to energy, energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies;

(e) Policies to reduce market distortions would promote energy systems compatible with sustainable development through the use of improved market signals and by removing market distortions, including restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, with such policies taking fully into account the specific needs and

conditions of developing countries, with the aim of minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development;

(f) Where appropriate, to phase out subsidies in this area that inhibit sustainable development, taking fully into account the specific conditions and different levels of development of individual countries and considering the adverse effect, particularly on developing countries.

17. Access to energy should include actions to:

(a) Accelerate access of the poor to sustainable energy services, in particular in rural and remote areas in developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and African countries;

(b) Ensure that energy policies are supportive of the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty;

(c) Integrate, for countries which have not already done so, energy access and diversified energy policies into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies and national development plans;

(d) Promote, at the national and local levels, sustainable rural electrification programmes;

(e) Adopt incentives to encourage increased investment by the public and private sectors to provide sustainable improved energy services and infrastructure, particularly for the poor in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, with special attention to women;

(f) Develop energy storage technologies, transmission and energy transport infrastructure, including oil and natural gas pipelines and electricity interconnections;

(g) Accelerate transition from inefficient utilization of biomass to cleaner energy sources, technology, and appliances for cooking and heating, and support efforts to disseminate improved biomass-based technologies and provide incentives for switching to cleaner fuels and technologies;

(h) Combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

(i) Promote public participation and strengthen the role of women and youth in decision-making, planning, designing and implementation of energy policies and programmes at all levels;

(j) Reduce disaster risk and build the resilience of energy-related infrastructures to disasters;

(k) Encourage, at the national level, enabling environments and strengthen regulatory frameworks to improve the functioning, transparency and information related to national energy markets.

18. The promotion of energy efficiency should include actions to:

(a) Accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of more efficient energy technologies;

(b) Increase efficiency and productivity in the power and heat sectors, through better utilization of generation capacities, co-generation, lowering energy transmission losses, demand management, fuel switching, heat recovery, interconnection or national electricity grids, the establishment of power pools and greater electricity trade;

(c) Strengthen interregional cooperation so that more efficient and more robust regional electricity markets can be established;

(d) Promote, at the national level, energy efficiency policies and programmes, including energy auditing schemes and certification, system optimization, appliance and equipment performance and labels for products used in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors;

(e) Promote and strengthen, at the national level, energy efficiency building codes and encourage financial and technical support for improving insulation, lighting and natural ventilation in public, residential, and commercial buildings;

(f) Promote, at the national level, integration of energy efficiency into public procurement policies and procedures;

(g) Promote, at the national level, consumer awareness and public participation in energy efficiency and energy savings initiatives;

(h) Increase efficiency in oil and gas extraction, processing, storage, loading, dispensing and transport, including reducing gas flaring and venting;

(i) Promote international cooperation on energy efficiency, including sharing information, joint research, education, training and financing;

(j) Promote measures for energy efficiency and energy saving at the workplace through joint worker-employer actions;

(k) Improve energy efficiency in the industrial sector.

Regional, subregional and international cooperation

19. Take actions to:

(a) Strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, in order to implement the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session, and other relevant decisions on energy for sustainable development;

(b) Enhance regional and subregional arrangements, as appropriate, to increase energy access in urban, rural and remote areas, facilitate resource mobilization and enhance energy availability, efficiency, capacity-building, knowledge creation and sharing and provision of local energy services, with a particular attention to the needs of women and youth;

(c) Support the national and regional efforts of the developing countries in implementation of energy policies in the framework of national sustainable development strategies and national development plans, as well as the

implementation of the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifteenth session, and other relevant decisions on energy for sustainable development;

(d) Foster international and regional cooperation in developing and deploying renewable energy technologies and advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and encourage international and regional cooperation for capacity-building, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(e) Strengthen international support for the implementation of national and regional energy efficiency programmes, including investment in, and the transfer of, modern energy efficiency technologies that are environmentally sound, cost-effective and socially acceptable;

(f) Encourage and strengthen the Partnerships for Sustainable Development of the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat in facilitating energy sustainability, including through increased cooperation with international financial institutions, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

(g) Strengthen cooperation between national and regional energy institutions on energy for sustainable development and encourage networking in research and development, including through the promotion of cyber laboratories and centres of excellence;

(h) Support a robust and sustainable energy system at national and regional levels, and the maintenance and improvement of energy production and transport infrastructure, including pipeline, transmission and distribution facilities;

(i) Enhance and facilitate, as appropriate, regional cooperation in the field of generation, transmission and distribution of energy, including through sustainable exploration and utilization of regional hydroelectric potentials, interconnection of electricity grids, oil and natural gas pipelines and cross-border energy trade;

(j) Encourage regional and international financial institutions to expand, and the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for energy efficiency, energy saving, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technology, and facilitate access to funding for developing countries, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(k) Promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multimodal transportation systems aiming at providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation;

(l) Create partnerships with regional and international financial institutions, including regional development banks, to promote energy access, energy efficiency, energy saving, renewable energy and advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies and the allocation of financial resources;

(m) Increase international support for national efforts to adopt standards and labelling for energy-efficient appliances and consumer equipment, as well as international harmonization, if appropriate, of testing and certificating methods;

(n) Encourage cooperation on effective ways and means to eliminate the dumping of hazardous energy wastes and obsolete products in developing countries;

(o) Strengthen initiatives to create and foster international cooperation on bioenergy, including biofuels, with a view to ensuring that bioenergy is produced and used sustainably, taking into account an adequate balance between food security and bioenergy production, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources, according to national circumstances;

(p) Improve the functioning, transparency and information related to energy markets to promote greater stability and predictability, both with respect to supply and demand;

(q) Enhance regional and international dialogue and understanding between energy producing and consuming countries;

(r) Enhance international cooperation in the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions relating to energy for sustainable development.

Follow-up on energy for sustainable development

20. Decides to devote in 2010 and 2014, without prejudice to the programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its eleventh session, a period of time to be determined by the Bureau in advance, using one or two days as benchmarks, to monitor and follow up the implementation of decisions on energy for sustainable development and the means of implementation, taken at the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth and fifteenth sessions.

Means of implementation

21. Take actions to:

(a) Mobilize financial resources, including from the public and private sector, increased official development assistance, microcredit and innovative funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency, cleaner fossil fuel and other energy;

(b) Create a positive investment climate at all levels to attract private capital for energy projects;

(c) Encourage transfer and dissemination of cleaner energy technologies, including advanced, cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(d) Encourage the development of carbon capture and storage and enhanced oil recovery technologies with developed countries accelerating their development in contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

(e) Increase investments and strengthen public/private partnerships in research and development to develop the new, advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies;

(f) Support and promote the use of cleaner liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, including through creating appropriate investment conditions for liquefied natural gas and gas-to-liquid trade, and develop the global liquefied natural gas/gas-to-liquid market to increase access to cleaner forms of fossil fuel energy;

(g) Promote foreign direct investment for the development of the resource base, including fossil fuels, sustainable production and use of biofuels and other renewable sources of energy;

(h) Support the establishment and further development of energy service companies through capacity-building at the national level;

(i) Encourage international financial institutions to increase their funding in developing countries to improve energy efficiency in local and national electricity grids, including through reduction of electricity losses in transportation and distribution networks.

B. Industrial development

22. Industrial development should be addressed within the context of sustainable development and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and is crucial for economic growth, eradicating poverty and employment creation, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. Increasing resource use efficiency and enhancing technological innovation offer opportunities to reduce costs, increase competitiveness and employment, as well as delink economic growth and environmental degradation. In this regard, the role of business and industry is important. International financing and technology cooperation and transfer are important to developing countries and their businesses and industries to facilitate adoption of cleaner, more efficient technologies. Industrial development is closely linked to the further integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the global economy.

23. Take actions to:

(a) Formulate national policy frameworks, including legislation and regulations, as appropriate, to create an enabling environment for sustainable industrial development and diversification, private sector investment, and enhanced domestic environmental governance, and the adoption of improved environmental management practices and environmentally sound technologies;

(b) Enhance the mobilization of technical and financial resources for basic infrastructure to facilitate sustainable industrial development in developing countries;

(c) Support technological upgrading for sustainable industrial development, including, inter alia, through existing national and international investment funds, building the capacity of standards, testing and certification bodies, and stronger industry-academia collaboration on research and development;

(d) Enhance efficient and sustainable use by industry of natural resources and energy, sound chemicals management, pollution reduction, waste minimization and recycling and reuse, including, as appropriate, through the provision of financial and technical assistance, in particular to developing countries;

(e) Strengthen business capacity, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises and in particular in developing countries and countries with economies

in transition, to address unsustainable industrial practices and to implement supportive management approaches, including through better access to loan and credit programmes, and financial and technical support for cleaner production programmes and centres, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization/United Nations Environment Programme cleaner production centres, and universities and other institutions of higher learning;

(f) Invite business and industry to improve social and environmental performance through voluntary innovative management and reporting practices, including, inter alia, environmental management system approaches, and taking into account other relevant agreements and guidelines on sustainable development, such as the Global Reporting Initiative, using where appropriate science based approaches such as life-cycle analysis for innovative sustainable product development processes;

(g) Invite the development and adaptation of voluntary public-private corporate environmental and social responsibility and accountability initiatives that take into account the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,[n] including, inter alia, the Global Compact;[o]

(h) Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production by all countries, with developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, including, inter alia, through the three Rs initiative (reduce, reuse, recycle), education and awareness-raising to encourage lifestyle changes and through intensifying research on and adaptation of resource-efficient technologies, and technological innovation and cooperation, taking particularly into account the needs and capabilities of developing countries;

(i) Promote sustainable tourism, including ecotourism and, in this regard, support efforts of developing countries, including in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(j) Encourage closer cooperation and dialogue among government, local authorities, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, workers and trade unions, farmers, non-governmental organizations, women, youth, indigenous people and local communities and other key stakeholders in order to promote effective voluntary business and consumer actions to enhance sustainable consumption and production, as well as full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work;

(k) Enhance sustainable utilization and management of marine resources, fisheries based on coral reef ecosystems, aquaculture industries and seafood processing, and support efforts of developing countries in this regard, especially in small island developing States.

Subregional, regional and global international cooperation

24. Take actions to:

(a) Encourage continued international efforts to support developing countries in building capacities for environmental impact assessments, including, as

[n] Adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-sixth session (1998).
[o] Launched by the Secretary-General in January 1999.

appropriate, strategic environmental assessments of national and regional plans and programmes and, in this regard, to provide support, as mutually agreed, to developing countries at the local, national and, where they exist, regional levels;

(b) Pursue progress in the field of sustainable consumption and production patterns through full commitment to the Marrakesh process and its task forces;

(c) Improve market access for products of importance to developing countries by reducing or, as appropriate, eliminating tariffs, including the reduction or elimination of tariff peaks and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, to enable developing countries to make full use of their comparative advantages, and work towards a successful completion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations;

(d) Support trade-related capacity-building in developing countries, including for customs procedures simplification, trade promotion and quality control;

(e) Enhance capacity in developing countries for developing, implementing and enforcing regulations, codes and standards;

(f) Support technology transfer on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, especially of environmentally sound technologies, and mobilize financial resources for sustainable industrial development in developing countries;

(g) Strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular technology cooperation, including joint research and development between developed and developing countries;

(h) Strengthen international support, including support of relevant United Nations organizations for promotion and dissemination activities relating to trade and investment opportunities in developing countries, including small island developing States.

Means of implementation

25. Take actions to:

(a) Encourage investment in new and more efficient production facilities and products and the adoption and use of cleaner technologies;

(b) Strengthen investment in capacity-building, in particular in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, as appropriate, education and skills development to enhance the industrial skill base, to improve employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth on a non-discriminatory basis, and to reduce any negative social impacts, when applicable, related to industrial restructuring;

(c) Promote innovation and entrepreneurship by enhancing access to credit, including microfinancing, by small-scale entrepreneurs, to support involvement of, inter alia, women, youth and local communities in industrial business activities.

C. Air pollution/atmosphere

26. Air pollution has serious adverse impacts on the quality of life, in particular on human health, the environment and the economy. Therefore, an integrated approach is needed to tackle both indoor and outdoor air pollution that takes into account the related environmental, economic and social consequences. Its mitigation should be better integrated into national development planning processes. Indoor air pollution from traditional biomass cooking and heating is a poverty-related issue whose effects are most strongly felt at the household/local level, particularly in developing countries, by women and children. Industry and various forms of transportation may contribute significantly to air pollution.

27. Take actions to:

(a) Improve information dissemination of, and the knowledge base on, sources and health impacts of indoor air pollution, in particular on women, children and workers, and provide financial and other resources to support programmes and other activities that address adverse health impacts, including public awareness campaigns on indoor air pollution from all sources in developing countries;

(b) Replicate and increase, as appropriate, successful approaches and best practices and partnerships to reduce indoor air pollution, such as the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air, with a priority focus on practical initiatives that improve air quality;

(c) Accelerate the transition from inefficient utilization of biomass to cleaner energy sources, technology and appliances for cooking and heating, and support efforts to disseminate improved biomass-based technologies, and provide incentives for switching to cleaner fuels and technologies;

(d) Develop strategies for sustainable urban and land-use planning that integrates sustainable urban transport systems, industrial plant location and waste disposal siting and facilities;

(e) Promote the establishment of country and regional air quality standards and norms, taking into account World Health Organization air quality guidelines as appropriate;

(f) Improve control of emissions, including through, as appropriate, the establishment of emission limit values from different sources to mitigate air pollution, including, inter alia, through modernizing and upgrading thermal electric power plants, making the extraction and processing of fossil fuels more efficient, reducing emissions from gas flaring and venting and emissions from transport;

(g) Improve urban air quality through utilization of cleaner fuels and technologies;

(h) Expand the use of advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuels and renewable energy technologies, and support market development for the deployment of clean energy and production technologies;

(i) Improve collection, compilation and analysis of data, as well as capacities to measure and monitor air pollution and its impact on human health;

(j) Promote less polluting public and mass transport systems;

(k) Encourage improved inspection and maintenance requirements for all vehicles;

(l) Encourage public and private sectors to switch to more fuel/energy-efficient vehicles, including through legislation, as appropriate;

(m) Develop and implement national standards and market and non-market incentives to improve fuel and vehicle efficiency and the use of technologies that reduce emissions.

Regional, subregional and international cooperation

28. Take actions to:

(a) Strengthen regional and subregional cooperation for improved air quality and control of transboundary air pollution, both anthropogenic and naturally occurring, using an approach that combines, as appropriate, monitoring, abatement, research, or policy formulation, as well as sharing of regional experiences, and encourage countries to cooperate in relevant regional and subregional frameworks and mechanisms agreed upon by countries concerned;

(b) Encourage the sharing, on a voluntary basis, of regional and subregional experiences that address transboundary air pollution, such as the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the Air Pollution in the Mega-Cities of Asia project;

(c) Increase subregional, regional and international cooperation on collection, management, and dissemination of sound and updated scientific data and best techniques to improve air quality;

(d) Promote policies to reduce air pollution and the use of ozone-depleting substances and improve air quality, bearing in mind that such policies can have important co-benefits in addressing climate change;

(e) Encourage enhanced cooperation and, as appropriate, combined efforts of relevant international bodies in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) Invite Member States, to the extent that they have not yet done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer[p] and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer[q] and its amendments;

(g) Support measures to address illegal traffic in ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol framework;

(h) Strengthen systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by means of satellite, aerial and in situ monitoring systems, and increase scientific cooperation by, for example, making the results available for the use of all countries, especially developing countries;

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[p] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1513, No. 26164.

[q] Ibid., vol. 1522, No. 26369.

(i) Support, as appropriate, international monitoring programmes, such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the Global Climate Observing System;

(j) Support initiatives such as the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles for phasing out the remaining use of leaded gasoline, and work to reduce sulphur content in fuels, and the Partnership for Clean Indoor Air and the Global Partnership for Reduction of Mercury Emissions from Coal-fired Utilities, as well as assist those countries that wish to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether in gasoline.

Means of implementation

29. Take actions to:

(a) Promote the transfer of affordable, efficient and environmentally sound technologies on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for cleaner operating vehicles, traffic management and cleaner fuels, including advanced cleaner fossil fuels, renewable and alternative fuels, inter alia, through the involvement of the private sector;

(b) Invite donors to continue providing financial resources during the next replenishment of the multilateral fund under the Montreal Protocol;

(c) Enhance capacity-building, institutional strengthening and involvement of the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders in the work of improved air quality, taking into consideration the special circumstances and needs of developing countries, particularly small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries;

(d) Assist developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, to build capacity for monitoring, construction and updating of emissions inventories, and measuring and assessing the impacts of air pollution, and to promote the exchange of air emission information;

(e) Promote investment and partnerships for the development of sustainable, energy efficient multimodal transportation systems;

(f) Invite international organizations and donors to expand their support for developing countries with significant amounts of naturally occurring air pollution, particularly dust, sandstorms, forest fires and volcanic ash, including through capacity-building for early warning, monitoring and preventive measures;

(g) Support development of appropriate technology and measures to reduce emissions from burning and incineration of waste;

(h) Facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound and affordable waste management and disposal and recycling technologies to developing countries.

D. Climate change

30. Climate change is a global sustainable development challenge with strong social, economic and environmental dimensions. The recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change regarding the impacts of climate change on sustainable development are cause for concern. Climate change impacts all countries, but may be particularly severe for developing countries, especially

African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, which are particularly vulnerable, given their exposure and inadequate means and limited capacities to adapt to its effects. Noting the contribution of human activities to climate change, the Commission on Sustainable Development highlights the need for urgent attention and further action by the international community, in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[r] recognizing that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the overriding priorities for developing countries. The Framework Convention is the key instrument in addressing climate change. Decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development are meant to complement and support, but not duplicate, the work of the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

31. Take actions to:

(a) Meet all the commitments and obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with all Framework Convention principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and achieve its ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system;

(b) Develop and disseminate advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energies, such as hydro, geothermal, wind, bioenergy, such as biofuels, solar, hydrogen and other new and renewable energy sources and technologies that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including through private sector involvement, market-oriented approaches and supportive public policies and international cooperation;

(c) Continue to support developing countries, including through provision of financial and technical assistance, particularly to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to address their climate change adaptation challenges and priorities;

(d) Integrate climate change risks and related policy actions to address climate change in national sustainable development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies;

(e) Continue to explore the technical and economic feasibility and environmental soundness of new and emerging technologies, such as carbon capture and storage and other emission reduction technologies for fossil fuel sources;

(f) Move towards a longer-term strategy for a comprehensive response to climate change by promoting sustainable economic growth, accelerating the transition to a lower greenhouse-gas-emitting economy, and enhancing adaptive capacities and response measures to cope with the impacts of climate change;

(g) Support efforts of developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promote the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of carbon sinks and reservoirs through improved land-use management, soil protection, afforestation and reforestation, and forest conservation;

[r] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

(h) Support early warning, risk management and disaster reduction and response measures for developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable, such as small island developing States and least developed countries;

(i) Promote initiatives to improve the relevance, utility and accessibility of information on impacts of climate variability and climate change for use in early warning and risk management efforts;

(j) Integrate lessons learned and experiences derived from disaster risk reduction activities into adaptation measures and planning;

(k) Increase community resilience to climate change-related disasters by protecting natural resources and the conservation of ecosystems and the services they provide, through activities such as conservation and restoration of mangroves and coral reefs, reforestation and rangeland rehabilitation, and protection of coastal areas and marine resources, including fish stocks, and integrated water resources management, and continue to enhance and support efforts in this regard, in particular in developing countries;

(l) Enhance capacity-building and support efforts, in particular of developing countries, to integrate climate risk and vulnerability into investment plans and infrastructure development planning.

Regional, subregional and international cooperation

32. Take actions to:

(a) Enhance international support to establish and/or strengthen regional climate observation systems and networks, as appropriate, including by enhancing research in climate observation, modelling and dissemination of related information, including through capacity-building in developing countries;

(b) For those countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol,[s] strengthen international support to enhance national institutional capacities in developing countries, in particular in Africa and countries with economies in transition, for their effective participation in the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation, where appropriate;

(c) Strengthen existing funding mechanisms for adaptation activities;

(d) Strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in research, development and demonstration initiatives in the area of climate change;

(e) Enhance dialogue on ozone-depleting substances that are also greenhouse gases.

Means of implementation

33. Take actions to:

(a) Promote the development, demonstration and deployment of technologies for adaptation and mitigation, and transfer of these technologies to developing countries, in particular in Africa, small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries;

[s] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1.

(b) Build capacity for research on climate change impacts and training for technical capabilities, particularly in developing countries, to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, including by supporting efforts under the Framework Convention, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, other relevant international bodies and bilateral and regional partnerships;

(c) Continue development of partnerships among countries, including public-private partnerships, to manage the potential risks of adverse impacts of climate change on developing countries especially in Africa, small island developing States, and least developed countries;

(d) Promote capacity-building and institutional strengthening at the national level, in particular in developing countries, including through financial and technical assistance in Earth system monitoring and assessment, and reporting of climate change variables;

(e) Encourage the use of participatory approaches to address climate change, including public-private and community-based partnerships at national, regional and global levels;

(f) Promote the participation and awareness of all major groups, namely, women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers, in addressing climate change since its impacts affect all sectors of society;

(g) Involve women in all aspects of decision-making with regard to climate change policy development and implementation;

(h) Recognize and support efforts undertaken by developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

E. Interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation

34. An integrated approach to the four thematic issues, addressing in a balanced way the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, would enhance effectiveness, influence lifestyle changes and assist in the realization of complementary and mutually reinforcing policy options and actions. Cross-cutting issues need to be mainstreamed into policy approaches, programmes and development cooperation activities, including through public participation and, in particular, a strong role of women in decision-making. The means of implementation are critical to turning commitments into actions.

35. Take actions to:

(a) Ensure that energy, industry, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change plans and policies are integrated into national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategies, and national development plans and policy frameworks, as appropriate;

(b) Support implementation of national sustainable development strategies, as well as initiatives to share experiences and best practices and review such strategies on a voluntary basis;

(c) Strengthen good governance at all levels and in both the public and private sectors to advance progress on the sustainable development agenda in the four thematic areas;

(d) Fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;

(e) Promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as regional and subregional cooperation, with support from the international organizations;

(f) Build partnerships, which are voluntary initiatives, at all levels and involve relevant stakeholders, such as major groups and institutional stakeholders, in addressing implementation challenges in this thematic cluster;

(g) Involve the private sector more actively in implementation, including through the creation of an enabling environment for investment, private international financial flows and public-private partnerships;

(h) Improve access to sources of finance and investment for developing countries to implement the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including increased official development assistance, the promotion of international trade as an engine of development, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, increased investment flows and debt relief, as appropriate;

(i) Achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability and long-term growth, including through managing public finances effectively, and ensure that development assistance is used to build national capacities;

(j) Facilitate greater flows of foreign direct investment so as to support sustainable development of developing countries and enhance the benefits that developing countries can draw from foreign direct investment;

(k) Invite multilateral funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility, to provide better access to developing countries, including through simplification and streamlining of the rules and reporting procedures, as well as reduction of associated transaction costs;

(l) Mobilize financial resources to support developing countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the effective implementation of national sustainable development strategies;

(m) Encourage the application of strategic environmental assessment to plans and programmes where practicable and appropriate;

(n) Ensure that investment and trade policies are non-discriminatory and structured in ways which foster technological capabilities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(o) Work towards an early conclusion and development oriented outcome of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations;

(p) Support public sector capacity-building for integrated planning and coordination of policymaking in the area of sustainable development across all

relevant departments and ministries to foster policy coherence, in particular in developing countries;

(q) Promote technical capacity-building and know-how, including through support from multilateral financial institutions and collaborative research and development between developed and developing countries, focusing on the natural resource potential of developing countries;

(r) Further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[t] and provide financial support for its implementation;

(s) Promote an improved understanding of the linkages between social, economic and environmental aspects of lifestyles and individual behaviour, reaffirming the importance of achieving the goal of universal primary education by 2015, by introducing education for sustainable development into formal curricula and promoting lifelong learning through formal, informal and non-formal education establishments, non-governmental organizations and the workplace, taking into account the framework for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014);[u]

(t) Integrate the health concerns, including those of the most vulnerable populations, into strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

(u) Recognize and utilize, as appropriate, the knowledge and experience of the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, as well as the need for their effective inputs and participation in decision-making processes and implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(v) Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on favourable terms, including on preferential and concessional terms, as mutually agreed, as set out in chapter 34 of Agenda 21;

(w) Increase public and private investments in research and development and strengthen technology cooperation, including research and development collaboration, on technologies of importance to addressing implementation in all the themes of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(x) Support, through technical assistance and financing, the strengthening of scientific and technological capabilities in developing countries, including through promotion of existing and establishment of new centres of excellence and "virtual universities";

(y) Emphasize the importance of changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and, in this context, fully support the Marrakesh process and its task forces, such as the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production;

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[t] Adopted at the twenty-third session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Nairobi, Kenya, 21-25 February 2005.

[u] General Assembly resolution 57/254.

(z) Enhance gender mainstreaming in all areas of sustainable development, reaffirming the importance of the empowerment of women for development and of their full participation in decision-making, and enhance women's participation in business and industrial development, including through the use of microfinance, education and capacity-building;

(aa) Strengthen national and regional information and statistical and analytical services relevant to sustainable development policies and programmes, including data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors, and encourage donors to provide financial and technical support to developing countries to enhance their capacity to formulate policies and implement programmes for sustainable development, as provided for in paragraph 129 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Follow-up to and further implementation of the Mauritius Strategy

36. Take actions to:

(a) Fully and effectively implement the commitments, programmes and targets adopted in the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action)[v] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[w]

(b) Promote and review the implementation of partnership initiatives consistent with the role and mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in line with the framework of the Mauritius Strategy, at the international, regional and national levels, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

(c) Encourage the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further mainstream the Mauritius Strategy in their work programmes to recognize and respond to the specific needs of small island developing States;

(d) Urge donors, financial institutions and mechanisms to consider ways to simplify and improve access to financial resources for small island developing States, taking into account their comparatively small size, limited capacity to develop project proposals, and absorptive capacities for implementation.

Africa

37. Take actions to:

(a) Support the implementation of priority actions for African countries, including provision of affordable and environmentally sound energy services, infrastructure development, improving air pollution and data collection and

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[v] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[w] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

observation capabilities, and adaptation to impacts of climate change, such as drought and desertification;

(b) Strengthen financial and technical assistance and resources to support the implementation of Africa's agreed programmes of action and regional implementation, including the objectives of the Forum for Energy Ministers of Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[x]

(c) Support African countries in implementing plans on science and technology, disaster risk reduction and hydropower development.

Review and follow-up

38. Review and follow-up on progress in the implementation of decisions of the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would take place in one or two day sessions in 2010 and 2014.

Decision 15/1
Draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

2. At its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Commission decided to take note of the draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.17/2007/10).

[x] A/57/304, annex.

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 1 and 2.

Chapter II

Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2006/2007 (policy session): (a) energy for sustainable development; (b) industrial development; (c) air pollution/atmosphere; and (d) climate change

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 12th meetings, from 30 April to 2 May and from 9 to 11 May 2007.

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Commission heard general statements by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America, the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group), Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Caribbean Community) and Switzerland.

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Commission also heard general statements by the observers for Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States) and Papua New Guinea (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum).

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 April 2007, presentations on the outcomes of intersessional activities and events were made by the following participants: Elfriede-Anna More (Austria) on the 6th meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy: "Africa is energizing itself", held in Vienna, Austria, from 29 November to 1 December 2006; Jiro Kodera (Japan) on the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 22 and 23 March 2007; Anne Kari Hansen Ovind (Norway) on the Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Oslo Conference on Good Governance and Social and Environmental Responsibility, held in Oslo, Norway, from 28 to 30 March 2007; Ellen von Zitzewitz (Germany) on the ministerial conference under the German Presidency of the European Union on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the EU's southern and eastern neighbours, held in Berlin, Germany, on 19 April 2007; and Connie Hedegaard (Denmark) on the 3rd ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Environment Ministers' Meeting, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 24 to 26 April 2007.

5. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Alain Edouard Traoré (Burkina Faso), introduced the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/2007/9).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission held interactive discussions with major groups, and statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; indigenous people; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological communities; and farmers.

7. At the 2nd meeting, the following delegations participated in the interactive discussions with major groups: Italy, Switzerland, Brazil, Germany, the United States of America, India, the Netherlands, Sweden, France, Argentina, Belgium, South Africa, Canada and Pakistan.

8. At its third meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Vice-Chairperson, Frances Lisson (Australia), summarized the interactive dialogue with major groups.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission held interactive discussions on regional perspectives and heard presentations by Josue Dione, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and Emmanuel Nzabanita, African Development Bank, on behalf of the African region; Rae Kwon Chung, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Brent Dark, Asian Development Bank, on behalf of the Asia and Pacific region; Kaj Barlund, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Jean-Christophe Fueg, Swiss Federal Office of Energy, on behalf of the Europe and North America region; Joseluis Samaniego, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Racquel Herrera, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean region; and Anhar Hegazi, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Fouad Shaker, Union of Arab Banks, on behalf of the Western Asia region.

10. Also at the same meeting, the following delegations participated in the interactive discussions on regional perspectives: Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Chile, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Jordan and Egypt, as well as the observer for Palestine.

11. At the 3rd meeting, the following major groups participated in the interactive discussions on regional perspectives: non-governmental organizations; indigenous people; workers and trade unions; scientific and technological communities; and farmers.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Australia), summarized the interactive dialogue on regional perspectives.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 1 May 2007, the Commission held parallel interactive discussions on the themes of energy for sustainable development and air pollution/atmosphere, which were chaired by the vice-chairpersons, Frances Lisson (Australia) and Alain Edouard Traoré (Burkina Faso), respectively.

14. At the same meeting, in the interactive discussion on energy for sustainable development, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada, Israel, Kazakhstan, the United States of America, Kuwait, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Australia, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Chile, Ghana and Qatar, as well as the observers for Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Iceland, Japan, India, the Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Barbados, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Norway, Tonga, South Africa, Costa Rica, Tuvalu, Argentina and Egypt.

15. At its 6th (parallel) meeting, on 2 May 2007, the Commission continued its interactive discussion on energy for sustainable development, which was chaired by the Vice-Chairperson (Australia).

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Saudi Arabia and Senegal, as well as by the observers for Fiji, Samoa, Nauru, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Turkey, Botswana, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Burundi, Benin, the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea and Oman.

17. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for Palestine.

18. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the European Commission.

19. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

20. At the 6th meeting, the representatives of the following major groups made statements: workers and trade unions; scientific and technological communities; children and youth; women; business and industry; non-governmental organizations and farmers.

21. At the 4th (parallel) meeting, on 1 May 2007, in the interactive discussion on air pollution/atmosphere, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America, Israel, China, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Mexico, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal, as well as by the observers for Solomon Islands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Costa Rica, Jordan, Turkey, India, South Africa, Malaysia, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum), Oman and Botswana.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological communities; non-governmental organizations; farmers; and youth and children.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Burkina Faso), summarized the major points raised during the interactive discussion on air pollution/atmosphere.

24. At its 5th meeting, on 1 May 2007, the Commission held parallel interactive discussions on the themes of industrial development and climate change, which were chaired by the vice-chairpersons, Jiří Hlaváček (Czech Republic) and Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil), respectively.

25. At the same meeting, in the interactive discussion on industrial development, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States

Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the United States of America, Canada, Israel, Qatar, China, Mexico, Senegal, the Republic of Korea, Australia, as well as the observers for Fiji (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), South Africa, Palau, Jordan, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, India, Jamaica, Indonesia and Kenya.

26. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) made a statement.

27. At the 5th meeting, the representatives of the following major groups made statements: workers and trade unions; scientific and technological communities; women; business and industry; children and youth; farmers; and non-governmental organizations.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Czech Republic), summarized the major points raised during the interactive discussion on industrial development.

29. At the 5th (parallel) meeting, on 1 May 2007, in the interactive discussion on climate change, a statement was made by Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Maldives (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Brazil, the United Republic of Tanzania, Australia, Canada, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ghana, Saudi Arabia and Senegal, as well as the observers for the Federated States of Micronesia, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Japan, South Africa, Palau, Iceland, Bangladesh, India, Guatemala, Solomon Islands, Jordan, Egypt, Fiji, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Norway, the Marshall Islands and Argentina.

31. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: farmers; business and industry; non-governmental organizations; and workers and trade unions.

32. At the 6th (parallel) meeting, on 2 May 2007, the Commission continued its interactive discussion on climate change, which was chaired by the Vice-Chairperson (Burkina Faso).

33. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of UN-Habitat.

34. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; scientific and technological communities; and children and youth.

35. At its 7th meeting, on 2 May, the Commission held an interactive discussion on the interlinkages and cross-cutting issues, including means of implementation, of

the themes of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Israel, Indonesia, the United States of America, China, Canada, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Italy and Chile, as well as the observers for Grenada (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States), Tonga, Switzerland, Japan, India, South Africa, Solomon Islands and Sweden.

37. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

38. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: non-governmental organizations; women; workers and trade unions; scientific and technological communities; business and industry; farmers; and children and youth.

39. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Czech Republic), summarized the major points raised during the discussion.

High-level segment

40. The Commission held a high-level segment from 9 to 11 May 2007.

41. At its 7th meeting, on 9 May 2007, the Chairperson opened the high-level segment.

42. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General addressed the Commission.

43. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change.

44. At the 7th to 11th meetings, from 9 to 11 May 2007, ministers and other high-level representatives made statements on the theme of the high-level segment, "Turning commitments into action: working together in partnership".

45. At its 7th meeting, on 9 May 2007, the Commission held a ministerial discussion and official statements were made by Malik Amin Aslam, Minister of State for Environment (Pakistan) (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China); Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Germany) (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union); Angus Friday (Grenada) (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States); Martin Bursik, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment (Czech Republic); Georgette Koko, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Environment, the Protection of Nature, and Cities (Gabon); Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning (Netherlands); Paula Dobriansky, Under-Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Department of State (United States); Lee Chi-Beom, Minister of Environment (Republic of Korea); Mohammed Saeed Al-Kindi, Minister of Water and Environment (United Arab Emirates);

Fernando Tudela-Abad, Vice Minister for Planning and Environmental Policy (Mexico); Du Ying, Vice-Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (China); Onkokeme Mokaila, Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (Botswana); Paavo Väyrynen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development (Finland); Kasem Snidvongs, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand); Andreas Carlgren, Minister for the Environment (Sweden); Jaanus Tamkivi, Minister of the Environment (Estonia); Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea (Italy); Alzhan Braliev, Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection (Kazakhstan); Hassan Ahmed El Desouky Younes, Minister of Energy and Electricity (Egypt); Mamadou Lamine Ba, Minister of Planning, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation (Senegal); Prince Ibn Naser Ibn Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, General President, Meteorology and Environmental Protection Agency (Saudi Arabia); Nikola Ruzinski, State Secretary for Environment (Croatia); and Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State for Environment (Portugal).

46. At the 8th meeting, on 9 May 2007, the ministerial discussion continued and official statements were made by Josef Pröll, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Austria); Monyane Moleleki, Minister of Natural Resources (Lesotho); Ian Pearson, Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for Environment; Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Energy and Environment (Barbados); Erik Solheim, Minister of International Development (Norway); Raimonds Vejonis, Minister of Environment (Latvia); Norinov Djamshed, Deputy Minister of Finance (Tajikistan); Jordan Dardov, Deputy Minister of Environment and Water (Bulgaria); El Mostafa Sahel, Permanent Representative (Morocco); Shay Avital, Director General, Ministry of Environmental Protection (Israel); Abdullah Al-Murad, Permanent Representative (Kuwait); Mitja Bricelj, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (Slovenia); Mark J. Mwandosya, Minister of State for the Environment (United Republic of Tanzania); and Nguyen Bich Dat, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment (Viet Nam).

47. At its 9th meeting, on 10 May 2007, the Commission held an interactive discussion with high-level representatives of United Nations organizations, regional commissions, specialized agencies and Bretton Woods institutions.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat; Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General, UNIDO; Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF); José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary, ECLAC; Katherine Sierra, Vice-President and Head of the Network for Sustainable Development, the World Bank; Ad Melkert, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator, UNDP; Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Director-General, OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Fund for International Development; Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity; Abdulla Salem El Badri, Secretary-General, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); Gregoire de Kalbermatten, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Halldor Thorgeirsson, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General, Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Anarfi Asamoa-Baah, Deputy Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO); Arne Walther, Ambassador and Secretary-General, International Energy Forum; John Began, Deputy Director, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Neil Hirst, Director, Technical Research and Development, International Energy Agency (IEA).

49. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

50. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and by Vesile Kulaçoğlu, Director of the Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization.

51. At the same meeting, the ministerial discussion continued and official statements were made by Come Zouomara, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Central African Republic); Francis D. Nhema, Minister of Environment and Tourism (Zimbabwe); van Schalkwyk, Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism (South Africa); David Parker, Minister for Energy (New Zealand); Toshiro Kojima, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry of the Environment (Japan); Ola Alterå, Energy State Secretary (Sweden); Tan Yong Soon, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (Singapore); Tom O'Mahony, Assistant Secretary, Environment Division, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Ireland); Prodipto Ghosh, Vice-Minister for Environment (India); Constantin Mihailescu, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources (Moldova); Baki Ilkin, Permanent Representative (Turkey); Muhammad Ali Sorcar, Acting Permanent Representative (Bangladesh); Stavros Dimas, European Commissioner for Environment, European Commission.

52. At its 10th meeting, on 10 May 2007, the Commission continued its ministerial discussion and official statements were made by Connie Hedegaard, Minister of the Environment (Denmark); Chekib Khelil, Minister of Energy and Mines (Algeria); Mok Mareth, Senior Minister of Environment (Cambodia); Xingwana, Minister for Agriculture and Land Affairs (South Africa); Abraham Dwuma Odoom, Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment (Ghana); Agnieszka Bolesta, Deputy Minister of Environment, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment (Poland); Tatyana Starchenko, Deputy Minister of Economy (Belarus); Alfadhl bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Harthy, Under-Secretary for Development Affairs, Ministry of National Economy (Oman); Margarita Songco, Deputy Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority (Philippines); Augustin Frederik Kodock, Minister of State/Minister of Planning, Programming and Regional Development (Cameroon); Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Permanent Representative (Brazil); Johan Verbeke, Permanent Representative (Belgium); Hjalmar Hannesson, Permanent Representative (Iceland); Maria de Fatima Lima da Veiga, Permanent Representative (Cape Verde); Ali Hachani, Permanent Representative (Tunisia); Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer, Holy See; Luca Dall'Oglio, Permanent Observer, International Organization for Migration; Kathy Sierra, Vice-President for Sustainable Development, the World Bank; and David Edwards, Director, Technical Cooperation Division, International Maritime Organization.

53. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive discussion with major groups, during which statements were made by the following major groups:

farmers; scientific and technological communities; business and industry; workers and trade unions; local authorities; non-governmental organizations; indigenous peoples; children and youth; and women.

54. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, Norway, Cameroon, Qatar and the Netherlands.

55. At the 10th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

56. At the same meeting, the Chairperson made a statement.

57. At its 11th meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Commission continued its ministerial discussion and official statements were made by Siosaia Ma'Ulupekotofa Tuita, Minister for Lands, Survey, Natural Resources and Environment (Tonga) (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Pacific Islands Forum small island developing States); Mayra Janeth Mejía del Cid, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Honduras); Herman Tuyaga, Minister of Energy and Mines (Burundi); Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Environment and National Development (Mauritius); Laurent Sedogo, Minister of the Environment and Quality of Life (Burkina Faso); Ibrahim M. Sesay, Minister of Development and Economic Planning (Sierra Leone); Daniel Ahizi Aka, Minister of Environment, Water and Forests (Côte d'Ivoire); Jean-Pierre Babatounde, Minister for Environment and Nature Conservation (Benin); Abdul-Rahman Fadhle Al-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment (Yemen); Juan Mario Dary, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala); Henock Ya Kasita, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy (Namibia); Salvador Namburete, Minister of Energy (Mozambique); Francis K. Butagira, Permanent Representative and Chair of the Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa (Uganda); Gregoroy A. Rusland, Minister of Natural Resources (Suriname); Poseci Bune, Minister for Public Service, Public Enterprise and Public Sector Reform (Fiji); Federico González, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (Paraguay); Graciano Domingos, Deputy Minister of Urban and Environmental Affairs (Angola); Hon. Ernest Malenga, Deputy Minister of Mines, Energy and Natural Resources (Malawi); Davood Manzour, Acting Deputy Minister for Energy (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mahmoud S. Assidik Elfallah, Secretary of the People's Committee for the General Authority of Environment (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya); Pulikovsky, Chairperson of Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service (Russian Federation); Devon Rowe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Environment (Jamaica); Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, Secretary-General for Pollution Prevention and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment (Spain); Saadeldin Ibrahim, Secretary-General for the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (Sudan); Posh Raj Pandey, Honourable Member of the National Planning Commission (Nepal); Navin Chandarpal, Adviser to the President (Guyana); Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative (Cuba); Z. D. Muburi-Muita, Permanent Representative (Kenya); Thomas Kolly, Head of International Affairs Division, Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland); Claudia Blum, Permanent Representative and Head of Delegation (Colombia); Helen Beck, Counsellor (Solomon Islands); Bashar Al Ja'fari, Permanent Representative (Syrian Arab Republic); Ammar Hijazi, First Secretary, Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine; Adiyatwidi Adiwoso Asmady, Deputy Permanent Representative (Indonesia); and Peter Poschen-Eiche, Senior Specialist, Policy Integration Department, ILO.

Action taken by the Commission

Policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change

58. At the 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Vice-Chairperson (Brazil) introduced the draft outcome document, which was contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

59. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America, Switzerland, Mexico and Canada.

60. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Brazil) announced that, since there was no agreement on the draft outcome document, the Chairperson would prepare a summary of the Commission's deliberations (see chapter I, section B).

Policy session

A. Opening statements

61. Opening the policy session, the Chairperson of the Commission, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar, stressed the crucial importance of the thematic issues being addressed and the historic responsibility of the Commission, as well as opportunity, to make real progress. He said that there was no intergovernmental body that was better equipped than the Commission on Sustainable Development to take on that fundamental challenge.

62. In his opening statement, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, emphasized the interlinkages among the issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. He stressed the importance of financial and other resources to implement the agreed decisions. Noting that the fifteenth session of the Commission marked 20 years since the publication of *Our Common Future*, which set forth the concept of sustainable development, he stated that he looked forward to the participation of its lead author, Gro Harlem Brundtland, in the high-level segment.

B. Reporting on intersessional events

63. Following the introductory statements, the Commission heard reports on the outcome of a number of intersessional events.

64. The representative of Austria reported on the sixth meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy, which took place in Vienna, from 29 November to 1 December 2006. The meeting focused solely on Africa, and had the theme "Africa is energizing itself".

65. The representative of Japan reported on the outcome of the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development, which was held in Nairobi

on 22 and 23 March 2007. The Conference stressed three key perspectives: building ownership, promoting regional cooperation, and deepening partnership.

66. The representative of Norway reported on Partnerships for Sustainable Development: the Oslo Conference on Good Governance and Social and Environmental Responsibility, held in Oslo, from 28 to 30 March 2007. The Conference outcome document, entitled *The Oslo Agenda for Change*, was made available to the Commission for its consideration.

67. The representative of Germany presented the summary and conclusions of the Ministerial Conference, convened under the German Presidency of the European Union, on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: innovative policies and financing instruments for the European Union's southern and eastern neighbours, held in Berlin on 19 April 2007.

68. The representative of Denmark reported on the 3rd ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting, which was held in Copenhagen, from 24 to 26 April 2007. Ministers, inter alia, called for strengthened dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe on environmental issues, including climate change and sustainable energy.

C. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

69. The Commission continued its tradition of including an interactive discussion with major groups as part of its official proceedings. The interactive discussion segment held on 30 April 2007 involved representatives of women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers. The segment provided an opportunity for a focused discussion of the priorities of major groups with regard to practical measures and options to further implementation efforts relevant to the four thematic issues.

70. Governments and major groups reaffirmed the critical importance of engaging all stakeholders in implementation efforts at the local, national and international levels, and many expressed their willingness and commitment to work together through partnerships. Governments expressed appreciation for the contributions of major groups and supported their continued active involvement in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

71. Mainstreaming gender issues into energy decision-making processes was high on the list of priorities that enjoyed broad support from Governments. Access to modern energy services and technologies must become an integral part of national sustainable development strategies; decentralized power generation and energy service delivery were among the most promising approaches. Specific options highlighted in the dialogue included increasing capacity-building, technical training and enterprise development for women; including women in national energy policies and programmes; and investing in energy infrastructure that addressed the concerns of women.

72. A mix of views were presented regarding the diversity of energy solutions, with some calling for a phase-out of fossil fuel energy systems in favour of expanded sustainable energy technologies and creation of renewable energy markets. While several speakers championed the development of biofuels and hydropower, others advised that all options should be considered, based on the

existing natural resource base, population distribution and economic status. Many highlighted initiatives being taken at local levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide incentives for renewable energy use, develop alternative fuels and support public transit.

73. A global energy revolution was also a programme for industrial development, and employment was a cornerstone of industrial development. Workplaces should become the medium of action for implementing changes to production and consumption targets. The Commission could propose ways to encourage sustainable growth of industry and develop new renewable energy markets, while emphasizing creation of decent jobs, the critical role of corporate social responsibility, and full corporate accountability for social and environmental impacts. Enabling frameworks for sustainable business and industry should incorporate open markets, trade liberalization and investment protection, strong institutions and good governance, protection of human rights, science- and risk-based regulations that were enforced, protection of intellectual property and due diligence.

74. The Commission on Sustainable Development should identify concrete actions to support broader sustainable development policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, broaden research on regional impacts of climate change, strengthen global observation systems, and integrate sustainable development education into all formal education curricula. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment was cited as an example worth replicating in other regions that involved participation of indigenous and local communities and took into account their knowledge systems, culture and values. The special needs of small-scale farmers could be addressed by creating enabling environments to reduce production costs, minimize risk, and develop cost-efficiency for bioenergy production.

D. Regional perspectives

75. Representatives of regional commissions, regional development banks and other regional institutions addressed, from regional perspectives, policy options and possible actions to expedite implementation in the four thematic areas: energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. The session was organized on a region-by-region basis with regional panellists making presentations followed by interactive discussion with delegations.

Africa

76. Panellists from ECA and the African Development Bank started off the discussion. On the energy sector, ECA emphasized the need to design and implement energy scale-up mechanisms in rural and urban areas. It was also stressed that the institutions involved in the field of bioenergy needed to be reinforced. National policies needed to be harmonized to help reduce energy poverty and enhance energy security. Establishing flexible and accelerated investment schemes could also be essential in order to develop energy and industrial projects, such as hydropower systems. Nuclear energy was mentioned as an option to be explored. The African Development Bank identified as key actions the dissemination of renewable energy technologies, the widening of access to cleaner fossil fuels and investment in energy efficiency and conservation. It was recalled that energy and

power supply were among its top priorities and the focus of its policy was on energy delivery and promotion of public-private partnerships.

77. Industrial development was also crucial for Africa's development. Recommended policy options relevant to African countries were: enlargement of access to finance and technology transfer; strengthening of technological capacities; improvement in economic regulations and infrastructures; and establishment of national industrial information networks. The potential empowerment of women through the development of agro-processing small-scale enterprises was also underlined.

78. Climate change was a major challenge for Africa. Among the priorities for action were efforts to reinforce the capabilities of countries to carry out scientific research on the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Development of innovative technologies, integration of climate change concerns in national policies and establishment of climate forums to enhance regional cooperation on climate were among the main policy options. Scientific knowledge on air pollution had to be improved; advanced fuel stoves limiting pollution and preserving forests needed to be promoted.

79. Some delegations mentioned nuclear energy as an option that needed serious consideration in the light of the continent's heterogeneity in terms of energy resources. There were some reservations with respect to a proposal of focusing on hydroelectricity, given the prospects for water stress in Africa as a result of climate change. The need to diversify the energy base was also mentioned by several delegations in the context of affordability of energy services for the poor.

Europe and North America

80. Panellists from ECE led the discussion by outlining their implementation efforts in the region. The key energy policy options for the region were threefold: ensuring energy security; addressing environmental and climatic concerns; and liberalizing energy markets. The Energy Efficiency 21 project on energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation had funded energy efficiency projects and renewable energy investments that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The private sector had been closely associated with the ECE initiative, as evidenced by the creation of the European Clean Energy Investment Fund. Under the mandate of Energy Efficiency 21, the Fund would provide capital for clean energy projects that contributed to mitigating the greenhouse effects and generated carbon credits. Energy Efficiency 21 was also assisting in the development of an investment fund to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region which would support the launching of a private-public equity fund, assist local experts and work with local authorities on energy policy reforms. ECE had also established a forum to facilitate intergovernmental dialogue on investment and regulation for the promotion of cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels. It was additionally looking at the development of coal mine methane projects.

81. On air pollution, some of the important aspects of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution were highlighted and the main policy options for the future of that Convention were identified. The development of air pollution control strategies in the less developed parts of Europe was one of the top priorities for ECE. The integration of air pollution and climate change strategies was

perceived as a real need by many member States. Such a mixed strategy tended to be cost-effective and relevant.

82. Several delegations of oil-producing countries stressed the need to consider the stability of demand as an element of energy security, and to enhance the dialogue between producers and consumers and improve information exchange. The positive impact of public-private partnerships in the field of energy supply was also emphasized.

Asia and the Pacific

83. Panellists from ESCAP and the Asian Development Bank led the discussion by presenting proposals for strategies and policies under key goals: energy security, sustainable industrial production and consumption, reduction of urban and indoor air pollution, climate action, and means of implementation.

84. On energy, ESCAP outlined policy options, including adoption of low carbon economy strategies to decouple rapid economic growth from increased ecological impact; improvements in energy efficiency; and strengthening regional cooperation and promoting new technologies. The Asian Development Bank identified its main priorities in terms of energy policy, which included poverty reduction, promoting private sector involvement, addressing regional and global environmental impacts and promoting regional cooperation. The Asian Development Bank also outlined its main initiatives and programmes in that context, including energy efficiency initiative; carbon market initiative; sustainable transport initiative; new funding mechanisms to increase access to modern forms of energy for the poor (Energy for All); funds to promote clean energy with the support of several developed countries (Reach); development of knowledge hubs; and supporting adaptation to climate change.

85. On industrial development, it was recommended that countries adopt policies to harness foreign direct investment for improved industrial production patterns, develop investment strategies to integrate sustainability into energy and transport infrastructure development, and adopt fiscal policies that allow for internalization of environmental costs into market prices in order to improve resource efficiency.

86. Regarding air pollution, demand-side management policies to reduce urban air pollution should be strengthened, eco-efficient infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion should be promoted, and air pollution and human health monitoring capacity through training should be enhanced.

87. To address climate change, countries should strengthen the compatibility of climate change actions and broader economic policy goals, promote financial intermediaries that support clean development mechanism projects, including unilateral initiatives, and accelerate the development of low-carbon energy technologies to control emissions.

88. With respect to targets for renewable energy shares, the importance of taking national circumstances into account was stressed, given the heterogeneity in the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean

89. Panellists from ECLAC and UNDP led the discussion by presenting policy options, innovative instruments and opportunities for cooperation in the region, which were outlined in a document prepared jointly for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on the basis of contributions and comments from countries of the region.

90. It was noted that energy efficiency must be improved through cooperation in programmes targeting household appliances, and through South-South cooperation for evaluation of investments in more efficient energy generation technologies and elaboration of energy efficiency guidelines in important sectors, such as construction, hotels and land transport. Strengthening the processes of commercial and infrastructure integration between energy-importing and energy-exporting countries was also deemed very important. In relation to renewable energy, it was mentioned that information exchange on regulations, technical specifications and fiscal status for biofuels in order to reduce the costs associated with standardization and to facilitate international trade should be facilitated. Cooperation for the use of biogas from solid waste to generate energy, especially at the municipal level, should be enhanced. Regional technological development of other renewable energies, including wind, solar and geothermal, should be promoted.

91. Industrial development could be promoted in the region through cooperation, including South-South cooperation, for the introduction of regulatory instruments that helped to improve industrial performance and for the development of local certification bodies for industrial regulations, in order to reduce costs. Other opportunities for regional cooperation included the diffusion and development of instruments such as inventory of emissions and pollutant transfers to inform and engage the participation of civil society regarding pollution control policies and technical cooperation in agro-industry for prevention of epidemics such as the avian flu.

92. Addressing air pollution could be achieved by supporting cooperation in developing methodologies to quantify the negative externalities of air pollution on health, productivity and environment. Urban planning was another important tool for improving air quality through the reduction of travel demand. Other areas for regional cooperation included re-examining the way in which different levels of government coordinated policies in order to enhance accountability and transparency at the municipal level vis-à-vis the national government level; harmonizing rules and regulations on imports of used vehicles, given their impact on air pollution; sharing and disseminating successful national experiences in air quality control plans; expediting the replacement of methyl butyl ether as an oxygenate in fuels, and bringing about more rapid elimination of leaded gasoline.

93. On adaptation to climate change, Caribbean countries highlighted the need to increase support for post-disaster assistance, including by undertaking integrated evaluations and encompassing such issues as the effectiveness of insurance instruments. On climate change mitigation, cooperation within the region and between countries in the region and international organizations included supporting the exploration of clustered or sectoral Clean Development Mechanism projects in order to reduce learning costs; promoting the already initiated dialogue with the private financial sector and multilateral banks on the adaptation of financial instruments to the specific requirements of climate change mitigation projects; and

coordinating requests for funding, given the likely increase in demand for international funds for capacity-building to cope with the effects of climate change.

Western Asia

94. Panellists from ESCWA and the Union of Arab Banks led the discussion by presenting regionally endorsed policy recommendations and the financing needs for sustainable energy projects in the region. ESCWA outlined a number of policy proposals, including those on enhanced investments in oil and gas exploration and production activities, using cleaner technologies, promoting the use of natural gas in the power and transport sectors, and upgrading energy production and consumption efficiencies. Furthermore, countries in the region should consider developing renewable energy technologies and promoting their application. It was stressed that for many countries in the region it was important to ensure stable global demand for energy resources. Also stressed was the importance of diversification of energy portfolios and the need to consider nuclear energy as an option.

95. The representative of the Union of Arab Banks stressed in particular the massive financing gap between developing countries from the region, and the need to raise awareness in the banking sector about alternative energy resources, technology and operational risks.

96. Encouraging private sector development in sustainable industries, and extending financial and technical support to small and medium-sized enterprises was mentioned as a critical factor for industrial development, as well as the introduction of strategic policy interventions to improve processes and products.

97. Air pollution monitoring and control programmes required upgrading in the region. There was also a need to promote sound urban planning for cities with support systems that were environmentally sound and had low energy consumption, including sustainable transport programmes.

98. With respect to climate change, countries in the region needed support in the areas of environmental and economic impact assessments of climate change and the corresponding adaptation measures required. Countries in the region also required support of regional collaboration on climate change control and mitigation strategies and assistance in joining the international efforts in that respect.

E. High-level segment

99. The high-level segment of the Commission took place from 9 to 11 May 2007, with more than 100 ministers or ministerial representatives in attendance. It was opened by the Chairperson of the fifteenth session, Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah (Qatar).

100. Opening remarks were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, who noted the significance of the twentieth anniversary of the publication *Our Common Future*, which had introduced the concept of sustainable development. He assured ministers of his support for advancing progress across the sustainable development agenda. Stressing the critical importance of the themes of the fifteenth session of the Commission, he highlighted the issue of climate change and noted that he had recently appointed three special envoys to explore prospects for advancing a multilateral solution in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process. He stressed that significant

additional financial resources, as well as technological research and development, were necessary for mitigation of and adaptation to the harmful impacts of climate change.

101. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and one of the Secretary-General's special envoys on climate change, who had chaired the commission that produced *Our Common Future*, addressed the high-level segment. While noting that poverty was still the greatest challenge to development, especially for Africa, she stated that she had seen progress in many areas over the past 20 years. Climate change, however, demanded immediate attention by the global community. She highlighted the need for building trust among countries and for finding common ground.

102. Following the opening statements, ministers commenced their interactive discussions on the topic "Turning commitments into action: working together in partnership". In their statements, almost all the speakers emphasized the unique opportunity the current session of the Commission offered to address the key issues of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change in an integrated manner, and from the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection. Many delegations urged that the policy options resulting from the session reflect the need for simultaneous and coordinated progress in all three aspects of sustainable development.

103. Ministers also stressed the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of what had been decided at previous meetings and summits. Ministers noted that poverty remained the key challenge to achieving progress in the sectoral themes for the current session, as well as sustainable development generally. Poverty also intensified the harmful impact of environmental degradation on economically and socially vulnerable people.

104. It was recognized that developing countries faced particular challenges in striving for sustainable development owing to lack of resources and henceforth adaptive capacity. In particular, the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries affected by conflict, needed to be addressed through sharing of experiences, capacity-building, technology transfers and provision of financial resources to implement commitments effectively as set out in the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation). The successful conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations was also seen as important in that regard. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was cited as important and indispensable.

105. Ministers highlighted the need for diversification of energy sources, including renewable energy but also nuclear energy, and cleaner fossil fuels; a number of Ministers stressed the need for financial and technical assistance from developed countries to developing countries in those efforts. Ministers also reiterated that access to energy was crucial to poverty eradication. Lack of access to energy by developing countries hindered progress in alleviation of poverty, industrialization and employment creation.

106. On meeting the goal of increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, some ministers pointed out that more resources must be directed to further research on and development of renewable energy technologies. In that regard, a number of countries mentioned that they were launching or expanding biofuel programmes and highlighted the potential of biofuels as an option to increase opportunities for rural development, diversify energy sources, reduce air pollution and its impacts on health, mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce imports of fossil fuels, and increase competitiveness and possibilities for economic growth.

107. Ministers noted the strong linkages between energy and climate change. Climate change required joint action based on solidarity; no single State or region of the world was able to effectively counteract that phenomenon. A number of ministers expressed the hope that a post-2012 commitment period would include all countries; others emphasized the need for supporting developing countries in their emissions reduction efforts in areas such as transport, energy efficiency and forest preservation. Developing countries called for increased financial resource flows for adaptation to climate change and increased transfer of environmentally friendly technologies facilitated by a multilateral fund.

108. Climate change posed especially serious challenges to sustainable development of small island developing States and threatened the very existence of some of them. Speakers from those countries called for the Commission to dedicate specific attention to implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation during each policy year, in addition to the review year sessions. Ministers from small island developing States and their development partners supported the establishment of regional risk insurance facilities and other innovative financing modalities.

109. Some ministers stated that industrial development with cleaner production technologies was crucial for sustainable economic growth, employment generation, eradication of poverty and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Also noted was the need for changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in order to move towards a low carbon society that decoupled economic growth and environmental degradation.

110. Ministers further called for increased international cooperation for industrial development through improved export markets for developing countries, trade-related capacity-building, infrastructure development, transfer of technology, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on products from developing countries, and removing bias against processed exports from developing countries.

111. A number of ministers noted that prevention, and air-quality monitoring, enforcement and education were essential elements of strategies to address air pollution. Deforestation due to slash and burn techniques of land clearing often needed to be addressed through action at the regional level, but international support was also needed.

112. Ministers addressed the importance of cross-cutting issues in considering the topics before the session. In particular, gender equality was cited as a precondition for sustainable development. The full participation of major groups, as well as the private sector, in efforts to achieve progress in implementation was also highlighted.

Another success factor for sustainable development was seen to be the existence of well functioning institutional and legal frameworks to support investment and partnerships, including public-private partnerships. Ministers stressed the importance of partnerships for advancing sustainable development.

113. Ministers emphasized the need to incorporate the thematic issues, in particular energy and climate change, into national development plans and strategies for sustainable development. It was suggested that peer reviews and sharing best practices could facilitate the integration of the thematic clusters into national strategies. Some speakers called for the development of indicators to monitor progress.

114. Regarding the outcome of the current session, ministers commended the outstanding convening power of the Commission, which attracted wide attendance by both ministers and civil society. They expected it to live up to its mandate to push forward the implementation of international agreements. But the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was not the end of a process; policy decisions adopted here should help the momentum for further advances in all the four thematic areas, including the Group of 8 Leaders Summit and the forthcoming thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention and the third session of the Conference of the Parties, serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. Ministers from both developed and developing countries called for an in-built mechanism for the follow-up of implementation decisions taken by the Commission, with some urging a review of progress at its 2010 and 2014 sessions.

115. Many ministers reiterated the need for developed countries to live by their commitments, in particular the 0.7 per cent target of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA). Ministers also noted the slow progress on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity-building and Technology Transfer and called for its immediate, full and effective implementation. Some ministers also highlighted the financial resources gap as one of the key constraints in turning commitments into action.

116. Several ministers referred to the current reform process in the United Nations and the work on strengthening system-wide coherence. In that regard, a few speakers supported the ongoing intergovernmental discussions on international environmental governance, including the proposal to establish a United Nations environment organization.

Discussion with organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations

117. Heads or high-level representatives of 20 international organizations, including United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional commissions, Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations had a dialogue with ministers, focusing on their contributions towards expediting progress in implementation.

118. On energy for sustainable development, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat drew attention to growing disparities in cities in access to energy, in particular in the developing world. The Executive Director of UNEP emphasized the role of

UN-Energy's inter-agency initiatives, including in biofuels. The representative of UNCTAD highlighted the need for innovation in the energy sector, including in the development of biofuels, while the Deputy Director-General of FAO stressed the need to look at biofuels in a holistic manner. A vice-president of the World Bank stressed that a predictable, long-term, global carbon market could provide an important avenue for mobilizing additional resources to address the energy investment needs of developing countries. The Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the importance of mainstreaming energy access into national development planning, and the representative of ICAO stressed the continuous effort of international civil aviation in the direction of fuel efficiency.

119. The representative of IEA described the work programmes of the Agency that were under way to improve efficiency in energy use in the various economic sectors. The representative of OPEC underscored the need for developing cleaner technologies and the representative of the OPEC Fund for International Development stressed that each country would need its own energy mix in the long term. The Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum stressed the need to implement win-win cooperation among producer and consumer governments on the energy issue.

120. On industrial development, the Director-General of UNIDO underscored the linkages between industrial development, energy access, poverty alleviation and climate change, emphasizing the need to translate global commitments into action at the factory level.

121. Addressing climate change, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity recalled the potential impact of climate change on biodiversity. The representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stressed that adaptation to climate change required the protection of land and the mitigation of the drought impact. The representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change highlighted the "Nairobi framework", which was aimed at supporting Africa in adaptation and greater participation in the Clean Development Mechanism.

122. The representative of WHO emphasized that the world's energy crisis was also a health crisis; in the developing countries many people died prematurely owing to health impacts of indoor air pollution.

123. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) emphasized the complementarity among United Nations agencies and the impacts of GEF on projects related to climate change, the ozone layer and other development challenges. The representative of the World Trade Organization underlined the growing integration of environmental concerns in multilateral trade negotiations.

124. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, on behalf of United Nations regional commissions, emphasized that improving access for the poor would require cutting energy prices in both rural and urban areas. Regional commissions provided technical assistance to developing countries in capacity-building and in renewable energy. They also played a role in industrial development by supporting regional cooperation and agreements on prevention of transboundary pollution.

Interactive dialogue with ministers and major groups

125. Major groups and government ministers participated in an interactive discussion on "Turning commitments into action: working together in partnership" during the high-level segment, on the afternoon of 10 May 2007. The discussion centred on specific policy options and actions to further the implementation of the goals and targets related to energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, as outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

126. There was overall agreement that Governments and civil society should work together in planning and decision-making on sustainable energy. Women outlined strategies necessary to mainstream a gender perspective into actions to expand access to energy and expressed their eagerness to participate in partnerships with Governments to promote modern cooking fuels, wind and solar systems, small hydroelectric generators, modern biofuel systems and energy efficiency mechanisms. Several ministers welcomed and supported those strategies. Farmers noted that Africa, in particular, needed small-scale economic development in agricultural and rural areas that addressed energy needs, including job creation in producing biogas, ethanol and biodiesel in marginal soils.

127. To turn commitments on industrial development into action, Governments must address the need for increasing employment, encourage dialogue with economic partners and respect workers' rights. Workers and trade unions called for a just transition to protect from loss of employment, emphasizing a shift to green jobs from an expanding renewable energy sector.

128. Business and industry observed that the private sector once believed that reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions was bad for business and the economy. Currently, however, business understood that the biggest threat to business was climate change, not emissions control, and the general business consensus was that it was better to have regulations than to live with uncertainty on climate change.

129. Local authorities had been adopting policies and implementing measures to achieve quantifiable reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions which were improving air quality and enhancing urban livability and sustainability. They challenged national and international leaders to act, and stated that local authorities would fill the leadership void passed down by other levels of government as they continued to implement policies and actions that were reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to their impacts.

130. Adaptation to climate change demanded that world infrastructure withstand extreme impacts, which required more support for global observing systems, stronger focus at regional and local levels, increased public investments in education and development, better North-South and South-South cooperation, and enhanced scientific partnerships. Farmers and women were particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, and their potential contributions with regard to mitigation and adaptation activities should be recognized. Strengthened and sustained support for research and development was essential to enable the study of new crops needed for agriculture to adapt to climate change, as the implications for food production and security were indeed catastrophic.

131. The Chairperson of the Commission stimulated the dialogue by describing Qatar's experience in sustainable development, noting the value of trade in reducing

poverty and urging participants to be pragmatic and balanced in recognizing the continuing need for an energy mix that was appropriate to specific country circumstances and needs.

132. In the ensuing dialogue, strong views were expressed by women, youth, non-governmental organizations, indigenous people and farmers on nuclear power, fossil fuels, mining operations, large hydropower projects and large biofuel plantations. Non-governmental organizations expressed disappointment on the absence of timebound targets and measurable goals on sustainable energy. The scientific and technological communities supported an approach that examined local resource bases and economic contexts to determine the best energy solutions rather than exclude possible options.

F. Partnerships Fair: highlights

133. Thirty Commission on Sustainable Development registered partnerships with activities relating to the Commission's current thematic cluster participated in the Partnerships Fair, which benefited from the participation of different stakeholders, including representatives of national and regional institutions, financing institutions, civil society organizations, experts and scientists, and consumers

134. Partnerships Fair activities featured six "Partnerships in practice" interactive thematic discussion sessions, aimed at addressing challenges, lessons learned and best practices in implementing sustainable development goals and commitments, as well as highlighting on-the-ground experiences from partnership practitioners in keeping with the policy year focus on policy options and practical measures to expedite implementation. The other component of the Partnerships Fair was partnerships information desks, offering 24 Commission-registered partnerships an opportunity to display and distribute information on their respective partnership activities, as well as interact more directly with Commission participants.

135. The "Partnerships in practice" thematic discussion sessions considered a number of important implementation issues, including addressing challenges in improving access to energy and renewable energy services for populations in Central America, structuring policy initiatives for clean energy markets, facilitating financing for sustainable energy projects, and implementing energy projects in Africa at the local and regional levels.

136. Key strategies that had proved effective in implementing climate change goals through partnerships were also considered, featuring partnerships working to mitigate climate change and improve air quality at the local and regional levels, promote rainforest management, and reduce methane emissions while enhancing economic growth.

137. Effective approaches to address the challenges in promoting and developing cleaner industries and markets, using sustainable technologies, were another topic of discussion. Partnerships representing useful models of collaboration to build cleaner industries spoke from three different perspectives: the private sector in the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) industry; non-profit organizations working on standards and labelling; and intergovernmental consultative arrangements in the mining sector.

138. Activities that had made important contributions to promoting improvements in air quality through partnerships were discussed, and challenges were addressed in enhancing quality of life and public health by reducing indoor air pollution from

cook stoves, by promoting incentives for energy efficiency in the public sector, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

139. Practical issues related to private sector participation in sustainable development partnerships were also discussed. Of the partnerships registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat, 44 per cent included private sector partners in their initiatives. The contributions of the private sector, not just through financial resources but specifically through sharing of management expertise, appropriate technologies, and building capacity and skills through training activities, had been stressed repeatedly at previous Partnerships Fair discussions and Commission sessions. The current session focused on the business case for the private sector to become involved in sustainability and the efforts being undertaken by business and industry to mainstream the partnering model as an implementation tool, taking into account the challenges and the benefits of working with diverse stakeholders.

140. A variety of relatively new technologies for sustainable development that addressed the specific needs of the small island developing States were considered. Key challenges were recognized in the development, access, delivery, cost-effectiveness, implementation and long-term use of those technologies with vast potential benefits for small island developing States and other developing countries. Presentations included biorock technologies to be used for coral reef and fisheries restoration, mariculture and shore protection, as well as adaptation to global warming and sea level rise; tidal energy as a simple, accessible and renewable source of energy; sustainable business solutions in holothurian aquaculture; waste management in remote areas (sewage and sludge); and the use of charcoal to increase soil fertility and pedal-powered agricultural processors. Partnerships and other collaborative approaches were emphasized as essential in order to deliver and scale up those new technologies in small island developing States and other developing countries.

141. Information on the various Commission-registered partnerships with activities relating to the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change that participated in the fifteenth session of the Commission is available on the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm).

G. Learning Centre

142. The Learning Centre offered 17 courses during regular meetings of the Commission at its fifteenth session on topics related to the Commission's 15 themes and cross-cutting issues. Participants had the opportunity to gain knowledge, know-how and best practices from academics and practitioners in areas related to the 15 themes, as well as the cross-cutting themes of education, gender, decision-making tools, financing and development strategies. Instructors provided trends analyses and assessments, and highlighted lessons learned, challenges faced and prospects for the future related to specific issues presented. Case studies, role playing and interactive discussions were employed. Instructors represented a wide range of universities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, government and international institutions.

143. There were a total of 480 participants, despite the fact that the fifteenth session was a policy year and that many parallel events were held at the same time. The

Learning Centre class size averaged 28 participants with some courses attracting as many as 40 people. Participants represented Governments, non-governmental organizations and international institutions. Individual experts attending the Commission session also participated. Course summaries were made available on the website of the Commission on a daily basis, together with electronic copies of the presentations. Feedback received from the participants was very positive.

144. Information on the various courses relating to the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change that were conducted by the Learning Centre at the fifteenth session of the Commission is available on the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/learning_centre.htm).

H. Side events

145. Ninety side events and related events organized by Governments, United Nations organizations and other international organizations, as well as major groups, took place in the margins of the official meetings of the Commission. The side events and related activities were intellectually stimulating and provided an opportunity for informal exchange of views, information and experience. The schedule of side events and parallel and related events is available on the following website (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15.htm).

Chapter III
Other matters

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.17/2007/10) and a draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development during its 2008/2009 cycle (E/CN.17/2007/L.2).

Action taken by the Commission

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

2. At its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007, on the proposal of the Vice-Chairperson (Brazil), the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.17/2007/10) (see chapter I, section B, decision 15/1).

Dates of meetings of the Commission during its 2008/2009 cycle

3. At its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Commission had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairperson entitled "Dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development during its 2008/2009 cycle" (E/CN.17/2007/L.2).

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the United States of America.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson (Brazil) orally amended the draft decision by replacing the words "5 to 20 May 2008" with the words "5 to 16 May 2008".

6. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007. It had before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixteenth session (E/CN.17/2007/L.3).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session

1. At its 12th meeting, on 11 May 2007, the Commission had before it the draft report on its fifteenth session (E/CN.17/2007/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur (Burkina Faso) with its completion, with a view to its submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007.

Chapter VI
Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its fifteenth session on 12 May 2006 and from 30 April to 11 May 2007. The Commission held 12 meetings, as well as a number of parallel sessions, informal meetings and associated activities.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Chairperson of the Commission opened the session and made an opening statement. An introductory statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

B. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 12 May 2006, the Commission elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah (Qatar)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Alain Edouard Traore (Burkina Faso) also serving as Rapporteurs
Jiří Hlaváček (Czech Republic)
Frances Lisson (Australia)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Commission elected the following member of the Bureau by acclamation:

Vice-Chairperson:
Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil)

C. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 April 2007, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.17/2007/1 and approved its organization of work, as outlined in annex I to the provisional agenda. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2006-2007 (policy session):
   (a) Energy for sustainable development;
   (b) Industrial development;
   (c) Air pollution/atmosphere;
   (d) Climate change.

4. Other matters.

5. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session.

D. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of 53 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations, also attended. The list of participants will be issued in document E/CN.17/2007/INF/1.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its fifteenth session are posted on the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/documents/docs_csd15.htm).

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